

# ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MORAN of Virginia). The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

## SUPPORT THE NO MORE EXCUSES ENERGY ACT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday the Investor's Business Daily printed an editorial entitled "The Drill Nothing Congress." Here is a short quote from it.

"It is a problem driven by domestic supply restrictions imposed by the Democratic Congress in the face of growing worldwide demand. The Democrats preach energy independence while they do everything in their power to prevent it." The problem they are speaking of is \$4 a gallon gasoline.

The American people are fed up with a Congress that can't seem to respond to one of their most basic concerns. People are tired of Democrat leaders blocking action to bring down skyrocketing gas prices. So we have introduced a discharge petition to force a vote on the No More Excuses Energy Act. We need to increase domestic production of energy in order to bring down the price of gas at the pump.

I urge all my colleagues to sign on to the discharge petition and support the bill when it comes to the floor of the House. There is no excuse not to.

## HISTORIC JUMP IN JOB LOSSES DEMANDS IMMEDIATE ACTION

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, today the House will vote to extend unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks to help workers out as they continue to look for a job.

Mr. Speaker, the grim numbers of five consecutive months of job losses is yet another sign that President Bush's economic policies have utterly failed the American people. The unemployment rate has surged from 5 percent in April to 5.5 percent in May, representing the biggest one month jump in more than 2 decades, and climbing to the highest level in nearly 4 years.

These statistics are not just numbers to more than 1.5 million Americans who have seen their unemployment benefits expire simply because there are not enough jobs to go around. So today the House will vote to extend unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks to help these workers. Demo-

crats have been pushing to extend unemployment benefits since the beginning of the year, but have faced stiff opposition from the President and congressional Republicans.

Mr. Speaker, with job losses so far this year totaling 324,000, American families can wait no longer. Thanks to this Democratic Congress, today we are going to get some relief.

□ 1030

## RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DISASTER RESPONSE, ELECTED OFFICIALS, COMMUNITY LEADERS AND EVERYDAY HOOSIERS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is said that if a picture is worth 1,000 words, this picture tells the tale of the worst series of storms to strike southern Indiana in 100 years.

I rise today to commend and recognize the extraordinary contributions, though, of emergency management, disaster response, elected officials, community leaders and everyday Hoosiers in my district during this last week of devastating weather. I particularly want to honor EMA directors, sheriffs, mayors and county officials in Rush, Johnson and Bartholomew counties, Indiana.

They suffered greatly from tornados, heavy rains, flooding, creating a catastrophe that awaits additional presidential response, but this catastrophe did not await the response by these public servants. They went above and beyond the call of duty, showing great poise, saving lives and serving the people of their communities.

Hoosier communities and families are hurting and need to know that more help is on the way. As I rise to commend these government officials and everyday Hoosiers for their response, I urge this administration again to declare an expedited major disaster for all 44 counties of Indiana affected by these historic storms.

## DC CENTRAL KITCHEN AND THE CAMPUS KITCHENS PROJECT

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I visited DC Central Kitchen, where I learned about an innovative program, the Campus Kitchens Project. This is a program that uses high school and college dining facilities when the kitchen is normally closed to prepare meals for area soup kitchens and shelters.

College and high school students involved in this program take a large leadership role in starting and maintaining the kitchens. Campus Kitchens

helps feed hungry people in our communities today, while building tomorrow's leaders committed to ending hunger.

Hunger is a political condition, and we need government action to end it, but we also need people from all sectors dedicated to doing more to end hunger. There are over 400 high schools and 100 colleges in Massachusetts alone. If each school organized a group to fight hunger in their community, just think of what could be done.

I congratulate DC Central Kitchen and the Campus Kitchens project for their work, and I thank the staff and students for their commitment to ending hunger.

## INCREASING AMERICAN JOBS AND ENERGY PRODUCTION RESPONSIBLY

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, people in southwest Louisiana understand that increasing American energy production means more American jobs, good high-paying American jobs.

They also know that a magic bullet will not lower the price at the pump for families, but increasing American energy production in a responsible way will help, and it will create American jobs. The American people want to increase energy production in a responsible, environmentally friendly way.

They want to see unleashing of American entrepreneurship and ingenuity. They don't want any further delays in seeking energy independence, and they know that this is in the interest of national security.

Families in southwest Louisiana and across the country want to see solutions to the high prices at the pump, and Republicans have viable answers to this. We have introduced a number of bills. The American people are now asking the Democratic leadership in Washington if they have solutions, because so far they haven't seen any.

Now, the Democratic Presidential nominee suggests to CNBC's John Harwood yesterday that while the U.S. would be better off without such a shock in gas prices, he sees higher prices as a good thing.

I don't get it. I just don't get it. We can work together to solve this problem. We can decrease America's dependence on foreign sources. It's a sensible thing to do, and I urge my colleagues to join me in this quest.

## DEMOCRATS TAKE ACTION ON RECORD HIGH GAS PRICES AT THE PUMP

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, as the prices at the pump continue to hit record highs, House Democrats know that the